

ASL Book Review Guidelines



What: Typed or neatly written book reviews

When: are due in my email inbox (acohen@philasd.org) or on my desk by 3:00 p.m., February 1, 2011.

Length: 350 to 400 words long, about two to two-and-a-half typed pages.

What do I write? The book review includes two sections. First, discuss the contents. Choose Fiction Content Guidelines *or* Non-Fiction Content Guidelines. ***Do not do both!*** Next, discuss your critical observations.

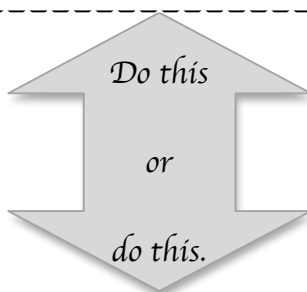
You must include examples to support every idea and opinion.

I. Fiction Content Guidelines

Use these directions for a fiction book.

Write a short paragraph for each bullet point.

- ☐ **Setting:** Where does the story take place? When?
- ☐ **Characters:** Who are the people in this book? How does the author present Deaf characters? ..hearing characters?
- ☐ **Plot:** What conflict exists? What problem must be solved? Does being deaf --or being hearing-- cause a problem in this book? Describe the problem. Explain how the characters tackle the problem. Do *not* tell the story of the book. Write one paragraph.
- ☐ **Interesting incidents:** Describe one or two memorable scenes that are especially humorous or dramatic.
- ☐ **Mood:** Is the book funny? sarcastic? reflective? tragic? Give examples.
- ☐ **Story Development:** Is the story true to life? Was it unbelievable? Did you feel satisfied when you finished the book? Were you left with unanswered questions? Give reasons for your comments.
- ☐ Was the book meant to be **entertaining? informative?** Was the author successful? Show how.



I. Non-fiction Content Guidelines

Use these directions for a non-fiction book.

Write four detailed paragraphs.

- ☐ **Thesis:** Why did the author write this book? What is the main idea? Does the introduction or preface inform you of the author's intent?
- ☐ **Organization:** How does the author explain the main idea? How is the information organized? List three or more topics that interest you. Explain why you liked or did not like the way in which the material was presented. What new ideas did you learn?

II. Critical Observation Guidelines

Write a paragraph for each bullet point.

- ☐ **What is the author's attitude** towards Deaf people? ...towards hearing people? Do you agree with the author's attitudes? Does the author see Deafness as a problem, or as another kind of normality? Give examples to support your opinions.
- ☐ **Author's purpose:** Is the writer trying to convince you to change your mind about something? What is it? Did reading the book change your attitudes or expand your knowledge? Give examples.
- ☐ **Author's knowledge:** What is the writer's background? Do you think the writer is qualified to write about this subject? Why?
- ☐ **Audience:** Who are the intended readers? Who do you think would enjoy reading this book?
- ☐ **Degree of difficulty:** Was the subject or the writing style difficult or was the book easy to read? If the book was very difficult, do you think it was worthwhile to struggle through it?

One more paragraph!

Choose *one* of these additional topics in your Critical Observation:

- ☐ Do you think the book would make a good movie? Why?
- ☐ Would you like to meet one of the characters? Who would you like to meet? Why would you like to meet that person?
- ☐ Contrast two characters.
- ☐ Who would find this nonfiction book useful?
- ☐ For a biography: Describe a key event in the person's life.
- ☐ For history or culture books: Describe one main idea in detail.
- ☐ Why did the author choose the title?